

Mountain West News Daily Newsletter

editor to: Jim Martin

01/11/2013 11:13 AM

From: editor@mountainwestnews.org

To:



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Mountain West
program of the
O'Connor Cer
Mountain West
The University

Centennial Valley

Photo courtesy of Rick and Susie Graetz

Produced by Shellie Nelson, MW News Editor

Editor's notes:

In the **Rockies today**, Parks Canada is moving forward with its plan to transfer management of hot springs in two Alberta and one B.C. national park to private companies.

The federal agency, which is dealing with a \$29-million budget cut and the loss of 600 workers, believes the marketing and customer service expertise a private operator will provide will help boost business, and revenue, at the hot springs in Jasper and Banff national parks in Alberta and Kootenay National Park in British Columbia.

Also north of the border, Kinder Morgan Canada says it has lined up commitments from oil producers in Alberta to allow the company to nearly triple the capacity of its TransMountain XL pipeline that runs from Edmonton to both Vancouver, B.C. and Washington state.

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Company officials are planning to submit the proposal to the National Energy Board later this year.

In Montana, the state Fish, Wildlife and Parks Commission approved a policy to address brucellosis in elk populations that keeps the commission in a hands-on capacity for the next few years.

The federal government is expected to publish its proposal to list the Gunnison sage grouse as a threatened species today, and designated 1.7-million acres in Colorado and Utah as critical habitat for the species.

The publication of the decision will open a 60-day comment period.

And finally, in our In-depth section, the Missoula Independent takes us on a tour of Blue Marble Materials' biorefinery in the Montana city, giving readers a glimpse of the processes the company uses to create natural chemicals used in the food and cosmetics industries.

Quote of the day:

"They've got to be realistic. Some of the things they are protesting aren't in our control. We can't control that Utah has great coal and oil deposits and wind is not so good here."

Cody Stewart, Gov. Gary Herbert's energy adviser, about [protesters' criticisms that the Utah governor's annual energy summit is too focused on fossil fuels rather than renewable energy resources.](#)
- Salt Lake Tribune

Rockies today

Parks Canada's plan to privatize hot springs in Alberta, B.C. moves forward

Banff Upper Hot Springs in Banff National Park and Miette Hot Springs in Jasper National Park in Alberta and Radium Hot Springs in Kootenay National Park in British Columbia will all be transferred to private operators under Parks Canada's plan.

Edmonton Journal; January 11

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Kinder Morgan proposes nearly tripling capacity of Alberta-B.C. pipeline

On Thursday, Kinder Morgan Canada released a list of oil producers in Alberta who had committed to shipping their product via the 60-year-old Trans Mountain XL pipeline to support the company's proposal to increase the capacity of the pipeline that runs from Edmonton to Vancouver, B.C. and Washington

Mountains

Hear the sound of the West:

1/10/2013

1/2/2013

12/19/2012

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12/5/2012

11/28/2012

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Mountain



State from 300,000 barrels per day to 890,000 bpd.

Edmonton Journal;January 11

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Support MI

Montana FWP adopts policy on brucellosis, elk

At the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Commission's meeting on Helena, commissioners heard from many stakeholders, who voiced a wide array of opinions on the state's plan to address brucellosis in elk, which was approved unanimously by the commission.

Helena Independent Record;January 11

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In addition
News recei
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individuals

USFWS proposes listing of Gunnison sage grouse as endangered

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is expected to publish today a notice that the Gunnison sage grouse is endangered and proposing that 1.7 million acres in southwest Colorado and southeast Utah be set aside as habitat for the species; the publication will open a 60-day comment period on the proposal.

Denver Post;January 11

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Opponents of proposed rail line to Montana coal fields seek larger review

The Tongue River Railroad has been proposed to carry up a daily average of 7.4 full and empty coal trains from a proposed strip mine near the Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation in Montana to existing rail lines, but opponents of the project said there are additional coal mines planned in the area and that the number of trains would exceed the number proposed.

Billings Gazette;January 11

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EPA again expands time limit for Wyoming groundwater investigation

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced Thursday that it would extend, for the third time, the public comment period on the federal agency's investigation of groundwater contamination in the Pavillion-area of Wyoming, angering not only the energy operators in the region, but also the landowners who have claimed that drilling operations have contaminated their wells.

Casper Star-Tribune;January 11

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Protesters decry Utah governor's energy summit's focus on fossil fuels

On Thursday, Utah Gov. Gary Herbert welcomed about 1,400 attendees to his annual Energy Development Summit, where state leaders announced the state was open for business and celebrated the report that energy production is at a 24-year high and growing, while outside 150 or so protesters criticized the forum for being too focused on coal and oil.

Salt Lake Tribune;January 11

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Outgoing Montana governor signs off on remediation plans

On Jan. 3, Montana Gov. Brian Schweitzer signed off on two remediation plans that allocate the remaining \$100 million in settlement funds from the Atlantic Richfield Co. for environmental damage, including \$32 million for work under the Butte Area One Final Restoration plan.

Montana Standard;January 11

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Opinion

Wyoming county's pro-active stance on loss of PILT funding a wise one

The future of federal Payment in Lieu of Taxes payments to rural counties where federal ownership of lands curbs their property tax revenues is uncertain, and Natrona County officials, who had already begun to anticipate life without that chunk of funding before Congress extended PILT for one year last year, should be commended for continuing their work to find ways to fill the revenue gap the end of PILT will create.

Casper Star-Tribune;January 11

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Montana legislators must put 90-day biennial session to best use

There are just 90 days for Montana legislators to get the state budget completed and pass other legislation, and a quick review of the hundreds of bills already in the hopper indicate that some lawmakers are already proposing legislation outside the purview of the state.

Billings Gazette;January 11

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Beyond the region

Federal judge lifts temporary injunction on Nevada wild-horse roundup

On Thursday, U.S District Judge Miranda Du said that wild-horse advocates had not proved that the Bureau of Land Management did not have the authority to remove wild horses on the Owyhee Range in Nevada near the Idaho border, but the judge said that she had continuing concerns about the methods used during the roundups and that her order lifting the temporary injunction on the roundups may contain some restrictions on the BLM's methods.

Great Falls Tribune (AP);January 11

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Around the world, extreme weather events are more intense, more frequent

Floods, drought, extreme heat or extreme cold spells, as well as more intense hurricanes are becoming commonplace across the globe.

New York Times;January 11

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California national monument now nation's 59th national park

On Thursday, President Obama signed a bill into law making the Pinnacles National Monument in California a national park.

San Francisco Chronicle;January 11

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Solar-generated power in California equal to that of 2 power plants

California's push to advance solar-generated power has resulted in such systems now generating 1-gigawatt of power, the equivalent of that produced by two conventional generation plants annually, and although the state's incentives for solar systems are decreasing, applications for such installations are increasing.

San Francisco Chronicle;January 11

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Vice President Biden, NRA at odds on early results of gun control talks

After this week's talks with a number of groups on the issue of changes in the nation's laws on guns, Vice President Joe Biden said that he saw signs of agreement on a couple of issues, including the ban of high-capacity magazines and uniform rules on background checks for gun buyers, but representatives of the National Rifle Association said their meeting with Biden on Thursday was less about protecting schoolchildren than it was about promoting measures restricting Americans' Second Amendment rights.

Christian Science Monitor;January 11

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In depth

Montana company concocts natural chemicals at Montana biorefinery

The scientists at Blue Marble Biomaterials use natural materials to create a wide range of renewable specialty chemicals for the cosmetic, personal care product and food industries at the company's biorefinery in western Montana.

Missoula Independent;January 11

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Environment:

[Colorado federal judge transfers case on Wyoming wolves to Wyoming](#)

Community:

[Casper Mountain landowner, Wyoming county near agreement on trail](#)

Legislature:

[Idaho technology companies say tax on computing killing industry](#)

Economy:

[Owner of Colorado gun stores has no regrets over ending assault rifle sales](#)

Politics:

[Colorado governor's State of State speech touches on wide range of topics](#)

Politics:

[U.S. Sen. Baucus shares his agenda with Montana Legislature](#)

Economy:

[Albertson's stores reunited by Supervalu's sale to Cerberus](#)

Economy:

[Supervalu's sale of Albertson's chain includes 40 stores in Montana, Wyoming](#)

Economy:

[Owners of troubled Alberta beef plant got \\$15M in government grants](#)